

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3798

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SA

SUBJ: GENERAL COMMENTS OF SRI ADVISOR ON WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

REF : JIDDA 3680

1. STANFORD RESEARCH TEAM LEADER PETER DUNCAN IS ENCOUR-
AGED BY ACITIVITY OF CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND
SAUDI MINISTRIES IN MOVING TOWARDS DECISIONS IN ALL
FIELDS. SIGNATURES OF BECHTEL'S PLAN FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION
OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE NEED NOT CONFLICT WITH PETROMIN'S
PLANS FOR USING ARTHUR D. LITTLE FOR EVALUATING COMPRE-
HENSIVE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. BECHTEL AND ADL
PLANS CAN BE PHASED INTO OVERALL PLANNING PROGRAM AIMED
AT GETTING ON WITH INDUSTRIALIZATION ITSELF. DEPUTY
PLANNING HEAD FAYEZ BADR NOW KNOWS HE HAS TO COOPERATE
WITH ADL AND PETROMIN. BECHTEL IS BEING TOLD THAT THEY
MUST FIT IN THEIR PROGRAM ROUGHLY WITH ALREADY SIGNED
CONTRACTS FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION IN EASTERN PROVINCE.
DUNCAN SEES OVER-LAPPING ON CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS AS
REINFORCING SPEED OF DEVELOPMENT AND NOT NECESSARILY
LEADING TO SLOWDOWN THROUGH CONFLICTS.

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2. ON JOINT WORKING GROUPS THEMSELVES UNDER US-SAUDI ECONOMIC COMMISSION, HE FORESEES ROLE IN WHICH USG HELPS TO DECIDE HOW TO IMPLEMENT PLANS AND STRATEGIES TO CHOOSE IN ALL FOUR FIELDS. IN INDUSTRIALIZATION, HE SEES WORKING GROUPS AS SITTING IN JUDGMENT ON WORK OF CONSULTANTS AND SUGGESTING AND MODIFYING THEIR CONCLUSIONS ON HOW TO USE GAS AND OIL ENERGIES. IN MANPOWER, HE BELIEVES EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON SETTING UP SYSTEM OF INSERTING AVAILABLE SAUDI MANPOWER INTO INDUSTRIAL WORK FORCE. INSTEAD OF CREATING VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS IMPORTANT NEED MAY BE ESTABLISHMENT OF ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR SAUDIS AIMED AT REPLACING FOREIGN WORKERS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HE APPROVES OF IDEA OF EXEMPTING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FROM USUAL VISA PROBLEMS ALONG LINES OF REFTEL. HOWEVER, HE THINKS A POSITIVE PROGRAM OF SELECTING SAUDIS AND TRAINING THEM ON THE JOB FOR INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO CREATING VOCATIONAL CENTERS THAT MIGHT TURN OUT UNREALISTIC NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL SKILLED IN THE WRONG TRADE. HE SUGGESTED MANPOWER EMPLOYMENT CENTERS INSTEAD OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS. HE NOTED THAT MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES CORPORATION (AN AMERICAN FIRM) HAS JUST SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FOR COMPUTERIZING VISAS. THE IBRD STUDY ON MANPOWER PROJECTIONS IS LARGELY COMPLETED. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT STEWARD OF IBRD FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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